

**VARIANCES TO STANDARDS APPLICATION**  
**Renewal Application (three years)**

**Purpose:** ARM 10.55.604(4) "Following the second year of implementation of a variance to standards, the school district shall provide evidence to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the methods selected by the district implement, meet, or exceed results that could have been achieved under established standards."

---

**DUE DATE:**

**First Monday in March**

---

**COUNTY:** Lincoln

**DISTRICT:** Troy School District #1

**LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:**

**Troy Junior High School**

---

1. Standard(s) for which a variance is requested, e.g., 10.55.709. If there is a program delivery standard, be sure to list it as well, e.g., 10.55.1801.

he variance is being requested for 10.55.709 Library Media Services, K-12.

- 2. Provide evidence that local community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. Community stakeholder groups include parents, community members, and students as applicable.**

Minutes from the January 13, 2020 Board Meeting are attached.

- 3. Provide evidence local school stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. School stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers and classified school staff.**

Minutes from the January 13, 2020 Board Meeting are attached.

4. **Attach Board of Trustee meeting minutes that show the Board of Trustees approved the application for a renewal variance at an official, properly noticed meeting.**
5. **Reflection upon initial variance:**
  - a. **Describe the specific measurable objectives that were listed in the initial variance application that demonstrated how the proposed variance was to meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).**

The measurable objective that demonstrates that the proposed variance will meet or exceed the results under the current standards:

We will increase the use of the library/media centers by 20%. We will measure this by how many visitors come to the libraries. We will also measure this by monitoring and evaluating the amount of materials that are checked out.

We plan to continue with the previously improved variance.

- b. **Provide a summary of the evidence or data gathered to demonstrate that the initial variance meets or exceeds results that could have been achieved under the established standard.**

Troy Public Schools has monitored the library/media centers usage over the past two years and have noticed a steady increase of student and faculty use at the elementary. At the high school we have seen a consistent stream of student use. The high school library is not getting used as much for non-fiction use since each student has recently been issued a Chromebook. However, at the elementary school, non-fiction checkouts have continued to increase. Further, the library is getting visited more often at both schools for material checkout--Chromebooks, research material, and pleasure reading books.

- c. **After reflection on the initial variance, describe any adjustments that need to be made to meet the specific needs of the students in the school(s).**

On reflection, the staffing variance in place at Troy Public Schools continues to meet the needs of our school, library program, students and staff. The current librarian has been working in the district for over twenty years and our part-time paraprofessional has been in the district for over two years. The library staff are highly valued as they provide an exceptional level of support to students and staff.

6. **Provide a statement of the mission and goals of this proposed renewal variance.**

Troy Public Schools Mission Statement: "Empowering students to develop good character, achieve academic excellence, and succeed as lifelong learners."

The goals of this proposed variance are to continue to provide the best quality education as possible. It would be very difficult to hire a 0.1 part-time librarian to meet this standard. We feel that we meet the district mission and the needs of the district with a full-time librarian.

7. **List specific measurable objectives that demonstrate the proposed renewal variance will meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).**

We will increase the use of the library/media centers by 20%. We will measure this by how many visitors come to the libraries. We will also measure this by monitoring and evaluating the amount of materials that are checked out.

We plan to continue with the previously improved variance in the following ways:

1. Troy Public Schools have collaborative teams (our school improvement teams) that meet monthly and oversee the implementation of the Library Variance.

8. What data or evidence will be gathered to document progress toward meeting the measurable objectives of the renewal variance?

**FORMATIVE:**

- The Library and Research Center Usage documentation will be used to measure the number of hours each department works in collaboration with the librarian each quarter.
- Book check-outs will be tracked on a quarterly basis to determine if library usage for reading appreciation has increased.
- Lexile levels will be monitored by classroom teachers to track individual student progress and growth relating to reading appreciation.

9. In what way does this variance meet the specific needs of the students in the school(s)?

This variance meets the needs of our students because it allows them more access to technology and additional guided support from the librarian. This enables students to be well-prepared to access and use technology in a safe and responsible manner. With the implementation of the ELA component of the Common Core standards, we are better able to meet the emphasis on research skills and support research writing across the curriculum.

10. Describe how and why the proposed variance would be:

a. **Workable**

There are sufficient district resources available to continue to implement this variance; we currently employ one full time librarian, a part-time paraprofessional specifically dedicated to the library. We will simply continue staffing the library in this manner.

b. **Educationally sound.**

As shown through the data and evidence section of the application, the variance has worked well in supporting student learning outcomes in our school.

- c. **Where applicable, aligned with program standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.2101.**

We are better able to deliver a Library/Media Program in accordance with 10.55.1801 through implementation of this variance. The library has truly become a flexibly scheduled, multi-purpose media center for students and staff. The collaborative teams that meet regularly have increased our ability to incorporate Library Media and Technology standards into the content area. Our librarian makes a concerted effort to keep our library balanced, current, and culturally representative.

- d. **Where applicable, aligned with content standards under ARM Chapters 53 and 54.**

Although our request for a variance is not specifically related to curriculum content standards, our team did consider how our variance would impact our ability to deliver the content standards. We chose to include standard alignment in items 7-16 on question #8 above to clarify how delivery and implementation of the variance would exceed our previous ability to deliver the curriculum content standards.



**Required school district signatures:**

Board Chair Name: Sylvia Maffit

Board Chair Signature: Sylvia Maffit Date: 1-13-20

Superintendent Name: Janet Francis

Superintendent Signature: J. Francis Date: 1/13/20

**Mail the signed form to:**

**Accreditation and Educator Preparation Division  
Office of Public Instruction  
PO Box 202501  
Helena, MT 59620-2501**

**OPI USE ONLY**

Superintendent of Public Instruction: Elise Langer Date: 4/23/2020  
 Approve  Disapprove

Board of Public Education Chair: Schottle Date: 5/7/2020  
 Approve  Disapprove



A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for School District #1- Lincoln County was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in High School Library on January 13, 2020 by Board Chair Maffit. Others present were Trustees Damon, Valentine, Fontaine, Orr; Superintendent Francom; Principal Schertel, Vice Principal McGinnis and Clerk Todd. Trustee Hanson was absent.

Guests present were Tisee Lewis, Andrea Cummings, Fran McCully, Irmi Engall, Dillon and Rachel Root, Amelia Downey, Marilyn McDougall,

The regular meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Francom recognized and honored students, staff and community members – list attached.

Damon moved that the Board approve the December 2019 minutes AS READ.  
THE MOTION CARRIED.

Valentine moved that the Board approve the District Obligations for the month of December 2019.  
THE MOTION CARRIED.

Damon moved that the Board approve the United Clubs Troy High School Balance for the month of December 2019.  
THE MOTION CARRIED.

Administration Report: Superintendent Francom provided a report with various updates – see attached.

Andrea Cummings, Amelia Downey and Christina Schertel provided a report on Special Education and Title IA throughout the district.

Fontaine moved that the Board Consider and Approve the Library Variance to Accreditation Standards.  
THE MOTION CARRIED.

Valentine moved that the Board Consider and Approve the Hiring of Luke Haggerty as Head High School Football Coach, Jordan Graves as Head High School Girls Volleyball Coach, Kerri Grant as Junior High Track Coach and Sara Guinard as District Paraprofessional.  
THE MOTION CARRIED.

The Board Evaluation was discussed with the trustees.

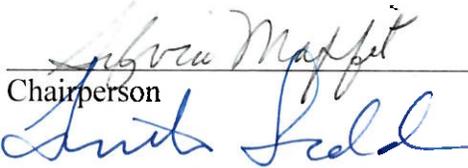
Board Chair Maffit found that the right of privacy exceeded the public's right to know in this matter in accordance with Section 2-3-203, MCA. The regular meeting closed at 7:07 p.m.

The regular session reopened at 7:28 p.m.

The Board continued the discussion on the Board Evaluation.

Damon moved that the Board adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held on February 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library.  
THE MOTION CARRIED.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
District Clerk

Unofficial Minutes